

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 2CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
30 October 1985**NEWS IN BRIEF****Britain frees 7 in controversial spy case**

London
In an unexpected twist, the British government and military police find themselves in the dock after Britain's longest, largest, and most secret spy trial ended with the release of all seven accused.

The trial arose out of allegations that seven servicemen, while monitoring a highly sensitive Royal Air Force listening post in Cyprus, allegedly handed over secrets "by the bagful" to the Soviets.

The men were said to have been compromised by alleged homosexual orgies.

The trial is the latest in a long series of British espionage scandals that have included such celebrated cases as Kim Philby, Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean, George Blake, and Sir Anthony Blunt.

That the servicemen were following in their footsteps by selling secrets and compromising NATO security was never established. That issue has been lost sight of in light of the furor over the way the case was handled.

The government, under fire from both Labour and Conservative members of Parliament, has called for a independent inquiry.

Public outrage has centered on charges made by the accused that

they were obliged to make confessions under brutal interrogation.

One of the accused charged he was kept in a seven-foot cell and underwent 11 questioning sessions.

Another claimed he was made to shave three or four times until his face bled and his sight was affected after concentrated exposure to fluorescent lighting.

But the government is also embarrassed by the fact that despite the enormous length and expense of the trial — it lasted nearly six months and cost almost £5 million (\$70 million) — the prosecution, according to experts here, prepared its case so ineptly.

There were flagrant errors in the prosecution case, such as a charge that a spy meeting had taken place in a building that had not yet been built at the time of the alleged rendezvous. The only hard evidence offered was three pieces of carbon paper found in the locker room of one of the accused.

The inquiry will almost certainly analyze the techniques used in interrogations and raise questions as to who made the decision to prosecute on the evidence of confessions alone, and who let the trial go ahead.

— David Winder